

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

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Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 1.3 million pounds, up 18 percent from February and 8 percent from the previous year.

There were 1,400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, up 300 head from February and the previous year. Average live weight was 899 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous month but 38 pounds above March 2004. Total live weight, at 1.24 million pounds, was 25 percent above the previous month and 26 percent above the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 400 head, down 100 head from February and 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 502 pounds, down 10 pounds from February and March 2004. Total live weight, at 177,000 pounds, was down 31 percent from February and 47 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 2,400 head, up 400 head from the previous month but unchanged from the previous year. Average live weight was 206 pounds, down 3 pounds from February and 17 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 495,000 pounds, 18 percent above February but 8 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 200 head, down 100 head from February but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 103 pounds, down 22 pounds from the previous month and 5 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

March 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2005 commercial red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year; veal was down 13 percent; pork was up slightly from last year; and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.1	1.1	1.4	3.7	3.6	2,869.3	2,723.4	7,877.1	7,592.3
Calves	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.7	1.5	76.4	67.9	227.0	197.5
Hogs	2.0	2.4	2.4	6.5	6.1	9,038.5	8,946.1	25,716.9	25,528.0
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	307.1	280.3	739.6	703.8
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	993	986	1,239	3,292	3,180	3,491,935	3,371,550	9,704,586	9,497,633
Calves	255	331	177	870	727	23,511	22,276	74,063	64,852
Hogs	420	537	495	1,416	1,240	2,420,825	2,423,007	6,896,993	6,898,538
Sheep & Lambs	36	24	21	67	66	44,210	38,851	104,644	97,734
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	911	861	899	890	883	1,217	1,238	1,232	1,251
Calves	512	512	502	512	485	308	328	326	328
Hogs	209	223	206	218	203	268	271	268	270
Sheep & Lambs	125	108	103	112	110	144	139	142	139
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	1.1	1.2	1.3	3.7	3.4	3,945.0	3,878.6	11,063.8	10,948.5

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Up

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2004 totaled \$208.6 million, up 15 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 98.5 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs account for 1.5 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$205.5 million, up 15 percent from 2003. Marketings, at 233.9 million pounds, were 5 percent below the 2003 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$63.70 per cwt, up \$10.50 from 2003, while calves averaged \$113.00 per cwt, \$20.00 above the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2004 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$3.07 million, up 42 percent from 2003. Marketings increased to 6.95 million pounds, a 1 percent increase from the previous year. The average price received was \$44.10 per cwt, up \$12.70 from 2003.

Cattle and Calves: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 pounds		Value of Production	Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Cattle	Calves				
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
2001	229,265	234,360	53.80	97.90	174,618	177,947	938	178,885
2002	236,853	231,020	49.00	88.00	160,466	157,153	861	158,014
2003	243,459	244,950	53.20	93.00	175,945	178,288	924	179,212
2004	237,631	233,850	63.70	113.00	209,118	205,490	1,100	206,590

Hogs and Pigs: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 Pounds	Value of Production ³	Cash Receipts ⁴	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----	-----Thousand dollars-----			
2001	9,610	9,660	36.50	3,495	3,526	77	3,603
2002	7,232	7,790	26.20	1,872	2,041	53	2,094
2003	6,930	6,888	31.40	2,166	2,163	63	2,226
2004	6,473	6,950	44.10	2,852	3,065	87	3,152

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³ Includes allowance for higher average price of state inshipment and outshipment of feeder pigs.

⁴ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

April Farm Prices Received Index Up 1 Point From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point above the March index. The Crop Index is up 2 points while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, asparagus, broccoli and hay. Lower prices were received for lettuce, corn, celery, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of several commercial vegetables, cattle, strawberries and dairy offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, hogs and grapefruit.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 5 points from April 2004. The Food commodities Index, at 124, is 1 point above last month but down 3 points from April 2004.

Prices Paid Index Up

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 140 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from March and 7 points above April 2004. Higher prices in April for field crop seed, feeder cattle, hay & forages and insecticides more than offset lower prices for feed grains, trucks, other machinery and LP gas.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005 ¹	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	2/	6.51	2/	9.62	5.95	5.96
Rice, per cwt	8.92	7.53	7.35	8.65	6.88	6.80
Upland cotton, per pound	.602	.432	3/ .397	.603	.415	3/ .420
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.90	89.10	96.90
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	61.00	68.70	69.70	85.00	91.30	91.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	93.90	108.00	108.00	88.90	95.50	95.60
Cows, per cwt ⁵	47.60	53.40	54.00	50.60	55.00	57.10
Calves, per cwt	108.00	128.00	130.00	117.00	135.00	139.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.480	.440	.440
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.767	.526	.469
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.10	15.60	15.40

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

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Statistics
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Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
(225) 922-1362
5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038